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To:	Felicia Marcus, USE	<u>PA</u>	From:	Robert W. Hall		
Fex:	415-744-2499		Pages:	2		
Phone:	415-744-2499		Date:	9-5-97		
Res	Perchlorate		60:			
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Comments:

The perchlorate contamination of our potable water supplies is a major public health and safety emergency. We are shocked to learn that the state has known about this problem for some time and failed to act when it should have acted. As a result of long experience with this type of environmental problem, we request that the following emergency steps be taken:

- The fact of perchlorate in our ground water and in Lake Mead is a huge regional emergency as a result of the number of people who depend upon the Colorado River and Lake Mead for their potable water supplies.
- There is no level of perchlorate in potable water that is "safe," California political determinations notwithstanding. Our ground water is seriously contaminated close to and at Lake Mead.
- The public health and safety demands that the Henderson Kerr-McGee plant must be permanently shut down now.

4. All perchlorate must be removed from that site to a truly safe site without further delay.

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September 5, 1997

- 5. The recent rains are a perfect example why the most heavily contaminated Kerr-McGee areas must be excavated and/or treated without delay.
- 6. Part of the reason for our concern is toxicological. The greater part of our concern is immunotoxicological. For further information on that problem, please have your staff call me.
- 7. It is becoming apparent that the drinking water of schools, hospitals, restaurants, government buildings, etc. has been and continues to be at risk. It is not wise to drink tap water that has not been subject to reverse-osmosis treatment. The SNWA has detected 7.6 ppb and 9.6 ppb in two in-valley pumping stations carrying surface water. We request emergency regulations requiring the installation of reverse-osmosis units statewide and a recommendation that no one drink tap water that has not been subject to reverse-osmosis without delay. Perchlorate contaminated water at any level is not fit for human consumption at any level. There is no acceptable level of contamination and the nature of the chemical is such that suggests that future research results will not be reassuring. We are aware of the economic implications of our recommendations but we are also aware of the public health implications.

We request a clear statement of your position regarding each of the above seven requests. Thank you. Robert W. Hall, M.S. (Research and educational associate, American Academy of Environmental Medicine.)